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BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT

-- OF THE --

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER,

1953.

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A. W. HANSELL, M.B., B.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

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BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

North Riding of Yorkshire

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for

the year ending 31st December,

1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedale Rural District Council,

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

(1) One Medical Officer of Health (part time)
(2) One Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor (full time)
(3) One Waterworks Manager (full time)

STATISTICS.

Area	43,302 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1953)	8,182.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books (end of 1953)	2,169
Rateable Value of the Area	£39,604
Sum represented by a Penny Rate...	£160. 8s. 11½d
Number of New Houses completed during 1953	55

NOTE:

The figure given above for the estimated population includes Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the Area.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Legitimate	69	60	129)	Birth Rate
Illegitimate	2	3	5)	16·3
	71	63	134	
Stillbirths				
Legitimate	1	0	1)	
Illegitimate	0	0	0)	
Deaths	40	30	70	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 8·5
Deaths from Maternal Causes				Nil.
Death Rate of Infants under four weeks of age..,. ...				Total 2 (Legitimate)

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory facilities.
(b) Ambulance Services.
(c) Clinics and Treatment Centres.
(d) Hospitals.
(e) Nursing Services.

There has been no change made in the arrangements with these services which continue to be satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

W A T E R.

(1) QUANTITY.

The water supply over the whole area has been satisfactory with the exception of the higher elevated places, namely Thornton Watlass, Crakehall and neighbouring Villages where shortages have occurred during the hours of peak draw. To overcome these troubles, the Council have constructed two sectional steel storage tanks; one at Thornton Watlass at an elevation 425 ft. above O.D. and the other at Cowling at an elevation 350 ft. above O.D. These storage tanks have prevented the overdrawing of the mains and thus maintained an adequate and constant pressure of water to all consumers in these higher elevated parts of the District.

To overcome similar difficulties liable to occur at times of peak draw in the Cowling, Burrill, Leeming, Exelby, Kirklington and neighbouring Districts, the Council proposes to construct a service reservoir of not less than 300,000 gallons capacity at Pasture Hill near Cowling at an elevation of 480 ft. above O.D.

During the year the water level in the well at Bellerby was very consistent and at no time seriously affected by drought.

(2) QUALITY.

The water supplied to the whole area has been treated by chlorination and the quality has been very satisfactory during the year. 20 samples have been taken from fittings supplied from the Council's mains. All these were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for analysis and in all cases proved satisfactory.

(3) CONSUMPTION.

Approximate daily consumption in the Bedale Rural District - Normal consumers.	285,000 galls.
Leeming R.A.F. Station.	120,000 galls.
Approximate daily consumption in the Leyburn Rural District.	15,000 galls.
Approximate Total daily consumption.	420,000 galls.

(4) CONNECTIONS AND METERS.

During the year 52 connections have been taken from the Council's mains and 11 meters installed. These are supplying Farms and private dwelling-houses in the Bedale Rural District.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No new sewerage or sewage disposal schemes have been started during the year under review though efforts have been made to obtain the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's consent to the Aiskew and Bedale scheme and it is hoped that this scheme will not now be long delayed.

With a view to improving the effluents from the works at Nosterfield and Langthorne, new and larger tanks have been installed and, whilst these are retaining a greater proportion of solids than the previous tanks, it is doubtful whether the effluents would be regarded as satisfactory by the Rivers Board. Similar improvements have also been made to the works at Snape.

The remainder of the area continues to be drained to the existing treatment works which are, in practically all cases, overloaded and unsatisfactory. With a view to maintaining the existing works as efficiently as possible, the Council have employed a contractor to regularly clean out the tanks and a power operated pump is now used for the work, together with tanks mounted on a vehicles to remove the sludge. Gutters receiving sewage effluents are regularly cleaned out and kept as tidy and clean as possible.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

In order to reduce the cost of refuse collection in the area, the Council decided to let the work to a Contractor who is providing the same service as the Council. The change over from direct labour to contract took effect on the 1st November, and the new arrangement appears to be working quite well.

Refuse continues to be disposed of at the Bedale and Well tips which are kept as tidy and free from vermin as possible. The Bedale Tip is, however, quickly filling up and efforts are being made to secure new tips in the area.

During the year it was decided to cease collecting refuse from ashpits at premises where water closets or chemical closets were installed and, in these cases, the owners and occupiers were requested to provide proper dust-bins. This alteration has resulted in the abolition of many insanitary ashpits and should ease the work of refuse collection

The conversion of privies to water closets continues and 24 such conversions have been made during the year. Rapid progress cannot be made in this work, however, until proper sewers and sewage disposal works are available.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council have continued this service, employing a part-time man for the work. 64 cases of rat and mice infestation have been satisfactorily dealt with.

HOUSING.

The erection of Council Houses proceeded smoothly with no undue delays and 46 houses were completed during the year. 16 houses were in course of erection at the 31st December, 1953. A total of 147 houses have now been completed since 1946 and there are now 183 Council owned houses in the area.

Private house building has continued, 9 houses have been completed and 5 were in course of erection at the year end. 49 private houses have been completed since 1945.

The hutted site at West Tanfield has been completely cleared and redeveloped as a housing site. 6 bungalows at Leeming Bar, formerly a Womens' Land Army Hostel, have continued to provide satisfactory housing accommodation.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government indicated that a start should be made on this work and immediate action was taken to clear the houses in the Plews Yard area of Aiskew. The necessary Clearance Order is now awaiting the confirmation of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. It is hoped that further properties will be dealt with during the coming year.

RECONDITIONING AND IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING HOUSES - HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Much greater interest has been taken in the grants available under the above Act for Improvement of existing dwellings and during the year one grant was made towards the cost of reconditioning a house for an agricultural worker. It is almost certain from the enquiries recently dealt with that more applications for grants will be received in the coming year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat for this area has been supplied from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse where it is inspected before delivery to the butchers.

Meat inspection at the Vale of Mowbray Bacon Factory at Leeming Bar is carried out after each day's slaughtering and approximately 280 visits have been made for this purpose. 68,491 pigs were slaughtered during the year and the statement of meat condemned is as shown hereinafter. All condemned meat is disposed of by a high pressure steam digestion plant installed at the factory.

Small quantities of food at the local retail shops have been condemned from time to time. This is principally tinned food which has become unfit due to damage to tins in transit or store.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1953.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)					68,491
Number inspected					68,491
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned.					44
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					614
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.					1·041
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned.					42
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					2,040
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.					3·039

MILK SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION.

The dairies and milk supply methods are generally satisfactory. Practically all the milk supplied in the area is received by the retailers in properly sealed bottles and is then delivered by them to the customer. The empty bottles are returned to the wholesale dairies for proper cleansing.

FOOD SHOPS AND CLEAN HANDLING OF FOOD.

There are 50 food shops in the area, 30 of which are grocers, 9 butchers, 8 confectioners, 1 wet fish and 2 fried fish shops. 8 of these premises are concerned in the manufacture of food and these are regularly inspected. In all cases, the premises are clean and well maintained.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the district all ice-cream sold from shops being delivered to the purchaser in the unopened containers or wrappers in which it is received from the makers.

During the year Byelaws for securing clean and sanitary conditions in the handling and wrapping of food made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been adopted.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Deaths.
Pneumonia	16	1
Scarlet Fever	13	Nil
Erysipelas	1	Nil
Measles	165	Nil
Poliomyelitis	1	Nil
Diphtheria	1	1
Whooping Cough	25	Nil
Food Poisoning	No cases notified.	-

Except for an epidemic of Measles during the early months of the year there has been no abnormal incidence of infectious disease in the area.

The one case of Diphtheria which occurred during the year and which, unfortunately, proved fatal, had not been immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

	New Cases				Deaths.			
Age Periods.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1							1	
5								
15	2	1						
25								
35	1							
45	1						1	
55								
65 & upwards								
Totals	4	1	-	-	-	-	2	-

Bedale Survey by Leeds Mass Radiography Unit.

The above survey was carried out on the 19th August, 1953.
Number of persons examined:-

Males	87
Females	88
Total	175

Results of Survey:-

Referred to Chest Clinic for further investigation

Presumed active Tuberculosis	1
Other abnormality	1

In concluding my Report, I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Dunning and Mr. Jameson for their consistent help throughout the Year.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
ALAN W. HANSELL,
Medical Officer of Health.